

Assault-related Gunshot & Sharp Instrument Cases

Injury Cases Reported by Hospital Emergency Departments to the Weapon Related Injury Surveillance System¹

Massachusetts Residents, Selected Cities & Towns, 2002 & 2003									
Patient's City of Residence	Population*	2002 Cases	2003 Cases	2003 Rate*	Patient's City of Residence	Population*	2002 Cases	2003 Cases	2003 Rate*
Group 1: Towns over 175,000 population:					Group 4: continued				
Boston	589,141	408	368	62.5	Chelsea	35,080	38	34	96.9
TOTAL Group 1:	589,141	408	368	62.5	Danvers	25,212	4	2	--
Group 2: Towns 75,000-175,000 population:					Dartmouth	30,666	3	1	--
Brockton	94,304	82	67	71.0	Dracut	28,562	1	4	--
Cambridge	101,355	14	12	11.8	Everett	38,037	13	16	42.1
Fall River	91,938	55	52	56.6	Falmouth	32,660	4	6	18.4
Lowell	105,167	29	30	28.5	Fitchburg	39,102	14	18	46.0
Lynn	89,050	48	41	46.0	Franklin	29,560	3	0	0.0
New Bedford	93,768	75	93	99.2	Gloucester	30,273	4	2	--
Newton	83,829	3	3	--	Holyoke	39,838	24	32	80.3
Quincy	88,025	12	12	13.6	Leominster	41,303	5	6	14.5
Somerville	77,478	22	11	14.2	Lexington	30,355	0	1	--
Springfield	152,082	163	213	140.1	Marlborough	36,255	7	7	19.3
Worcester	172,648	85	74	42.9	Melrose	27,134	2	2	--
TOTAL Group 2:	1,149,644	588	608	52.9	Methuen	43,789	11	4	--
Group 3: Towns 50,000-75,000 population:					Milford	26,799	4	5	18.7
Brookline	57,107	3	3	--	Milton	26,062	1	5	19.2
Chicopee	54,653	22	11	20.1	N Andover	27,202	0	1	--
Framingham	66,910	9	15	22.4	N Attleboro	27,143	3	1	--
Haverhill	58,969	11	9	15.3	Natick	32,170	1	2	--
Lawrence	72,043	84	80	111.0	Needham	28,911	1	1	--
Malden	56,340	12	8	14.2	Northampton	28,978	0	4	--
Medford	55,765	5	10	17.9	Norwood	28,587	1	1	--
Plymouth	51,701	3	10	19.3	Peabody	48,129	3	9	18.7
Taunton	55,976	12	14	25.0	Pittsfield	45,793	18	15	32.8
Waltham	59,226	4	5	8.4	Randolph	30,963	4	12	38.8
Weymouth	53,988	1	9	16.7	Revere	47,283	10	18	38.1
TOTAL Group 3:	642,678	166	174	27.1	Salem	40,407	11	4	--
Group 4: Towns 25,000-50,000 population:					Saugus	26,078	0	3	--
Agawam	28,144	3	6	21.3	Shrewsbury	31,640	0	2	--
Amherst	34,874	9	4	11.5	Stoughton	27,149	6	2	--
Andover	31,247	1	0	0.0	Tewksbury	28,851	0	3	--
Arlington	42,389	4	3	--	W Springfield	27,899	5	5	17.9
Attleboro	42,068	7	11	26.1	Watertown	32,986	0	0	0.0
Barnstable	47,821	10	9	18.8	Wellesley	26,613	1	0	0.0
Beverly	39,862	4	7	17.6	Westfield	40,072	4	6	15.0
Billerica	38,981	2	2	--	Woburn	37,258	1	2	--
Braintree	33,828	2	0	0.0	TOTAL Group 4:	1,623,056	250	282	17.4
Bridgewater	25,185	1	2	--	Group 5: Towns under 25,000 population:²				
Chelmsford	33,858	1	2	--	TOTAL Group 5:	2,344,578	155	178	7.6
(continued)					Massachusetts:³				
					TOTAL Statewide:	6,349,097	1,664	1699	26.8

Source: Weapon Related Injury Surveillance System, Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

•Cases are defined as any assault-related gunshot or sharp instrument wound treated in a hospital emergency department.

*Population data used to calculate rates are from the US Census Bureau, Census 2000 P.L. 94-171 Redistricting File.

All rates are per 100,000 residents. Rates are not calculated on counts less than 5; rates that are based on counts less than 20 may be unstable. Caution should be used when interpreting these data.

¹ Based on past record reviews, the statewide hospital reporting level is estimated to be between 70 and 80%.

² Counts for cities and towns in Group 5 (those having populations of less than 25,000 residents) are not shown individually.

The combined average for Group 5 was < 1 case per city/town in 2002 and < 2 cases in 2003.

³ Statewide totals include cases for which patient's city of residence was unknown or missing (n=97 in 2002; n=89 in 2003).

Prepared by the Injury Surveillance Program, Massachusetts Department of Public Health (November 2004).